

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, July 14th, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 N. Morton

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Roll Call:

Members present: Jana McGee, Rebecca Swanson, Joe Kielar, Molly O'Donnell, Gwendolen White, Teddie Mower, Stephanie Richards, Bill Brown, Jeff Jewel, Gary Charbonneau

Regrets: David Rollo

Staff: Jacqui was absent, and Teddie Mower took minutes in her absence.

Public Comment: None

Chair Jeff Jewell called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm

Announcements:

Molly announced that the Energy Mobile will be out visiting communities and encouraged everyone to participate. They will be in Sycamore Knolls tomorrow (July 15) from 12:00 to 4:00 pm with four to five pairs of volunteers.

Teddie announced that the next New Member Orientation for hOUR Bloomington Timebank will be held Wednesday, July 22nd from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm in Meeting Room 2A. There is no commitment to join but you must attend an orientation in order to be a member. What is Timebanking? Go to <http://hourworld.org/bank/?hw=1179> and scroll down to the first video.

Bill Brown extended an invitation to all to attend the ninth annual Summer Sustainability Internship Symposium where 2015 Summer Interns will showcase their completed projects from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 24, at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center's Grand Hall, 275 North Jordan. A vegetarian lunch featuring local and in-season foods will be served. To register, go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1O-k_t3Z5ws8xj8yl3BxSZypP7CIB20AXUAYRpPG7f7o/viewform?c=0&w=1

Approval of minutes:

Molly put forth a motion to approve the minutes. Gwen seconded the motion. The June minutes were approved unanimously.

STAR Communities Update: Stephanie Richards

Economy and Jobs is almost complete. For the section on Built Environment, former Economic & Sustainable Development Intern Erik Woodworth has identified three potential compact communities – west side, Covenant Hill

(College Mall area), and the downtown area. The Housing and Affordability section is making progress. They will move on to Health and Safety after the Built Environment is complete.

Report from the Chair

Update on Monroe County Energy Challenge – (Molly) The EnergyMobile is visiting the neighborhoods! In addition to visiting the Sycamore Knolls area tomorrow, they are trying to set dates for neighborhoods for future weekends. Bloomington citizens can go to the website to request the EnergyMobile at their meeting or event. The URL to do this is: mocoenergychallenge.org. The Energy Challenge team contacts households and shares ways to reduce energy consumption. They leave flyers with tips on how to save energy, if no one is at home). Molly also shared that they have developed a list of contractor recommendations for people who might need more work. Since we do not have Americorp workers this summer, they are looking for efficient ways to accomplish the work. They are working with neighborhood associations and will be more focused on helping people to the work. Molly also shared information on Project NEED with the Education Committee.

Hoosier to Hoosier – Volunteers are needed for H2H (Hoosier to Hoosier)! August 22nd. Contact Jacqui for more information.

Committee reports and updates

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: No updates

Environmental Commission: (Jana reported for Andrea)

Lawns for Life Report

- Signs with new designs will soon be ready for pickup
- Diane J would like to start presentations to spread the word

Tree Commission Report

- Treating about 160 ash trees with emerald ash, will also be planting new trees to replace dead trees
- Cliff Sadof will be doing experimental injections, exploring lower doses, trying three year cycle with less chemical
- No natural way to control bug, you treat or cut down if infected

BEAP (Bloomington Environmental Action Plan) Report

- Currently working with sub-committees reviewing materials
- New EC member Nick Kappas will be assisting with this project

- Next steps: Develop draft, looking at feedback, collecting new data where needed

Recycling Sub-committee Report (One of EC's big 2015 priorities)

- Met w/ Daryl Neher about support, learning more about city recycling
- Key point: waste management as whole loses \$1.6 million (roughly)
- Suggests pulling in DBI (downtown Bloomington Inc.) and pulling in Chambers of Commerce early to work out kinks
- Zone that would be effected: where parking meters are located and down S Walnut where businesses are
- Suggests finding financial improvement where city won't lose money
- Next steps: talk to suggested people, put together survey

Monthly Presentation by City Intern, David Cohen

"(Almost) Everything you need to know about Recycling in Bloomington"

- Asking to critique presentation so it can be used to educate and inform the public
- Republics (waste company) only gave sustainability report while trying to sell services
- City and County use two different systems
- City = Hoosier Disposal (owned by Republic)
- County = no pick up but 5 drop off locations
- Recycled Bloomington (junk mail, mags, office paper, cardboard, newspaper, shredded paper, food cans, beverage cans (rinsed, lids removed, labels are ok), glass jars, bottles (rinsed out, lids removed), Plastics 1-7, newspaper sleeves, styrofoam #6
- Republic recycles alum cans, metals, paper, cardboard, glass and plastics (more information online)
- Not accepted: light bulbs, wax and plastic coated box, greased boxes, wire hangers, most styrofoam
- Private companies do recycle CFLs, Wire Hangers, styrofoam and packing peanuts, reusable building materials,
- MRF = Materials recovery facility, separates items on conveyor belt
- Paper degrades each time it's recycled but can be made into insulation and animal bedding
- Metals sent to metal mill, heated to 2,800F, becomes metal bars called ingots
- Plastics divided by number, most common number is 1, moves along belt, grinded into plastic flakes and melted to polymer
- Glass is turned into cullet
- Potential products made from recycling paper are paper, toilet paper; metals are turned into new cans, tin bridges; plastic into lawn furniture ; glass into beads
- Recycling driven by consumer behavior, value

Next meeting for the Environmental Commission is August 20th. Joint leadership meeting next month.

Bring Your Bag Bloomington update: Chairs will sign the letter of support this week. Rebecca reported that the Bring Your Bag Bloomington is gathering momentum. Organizations are reaching out to the BYBB and asking for presentations. The response received at these meetings have been thoughtful and positive. There will be a couple of editorials, one in the Ryder the other in the Herald Times sharing why Bloomington should move in this direction. They have a full PowerPoint presentation that addresses local needs using local data. This is used when they speak at local events and organization meetings.

New business: No new business

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm